

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1516
Fork Christian Church
6801 Sunshine Avenue
Fork, Baltimore County
1890 Ca.
Private

Constructed circa 1890, the Fork Christian Church is located at 6801 Sunshine Avenue in Fork in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. The congregation began in 1890 in the small, one-room church, which was originally known as Bethel. The church first appears on the 1915 map of Baltimore County as the Baptist Church. In 1922, the Fork Christian Church acquired the Fork School (BA-1517) for use as a Sunday School. They retained this building until 1954 when it was converted to a residence. In the 1960s, the larger brick church on the property replaced the historic church. At that time, the original church ceased to function as a religious building. It was used for a time as a commercial building and housed the Fork Building and Loan Association. Currently, the one-room church is used by the church for offices and Sunday School.

Constructed circa 1890, the Fork Christian Church is located at 6801 Sunshine Avenue in Fork in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. Fronting north at the intersection of Sunshine Avenue and Stoney Batter Road, the one-story vernacular church is one bay wide and two bays deep. The modest wood frame church is set on a random rubble stone foundation with parging. The church has been reclad with metal siding that simulates board and batten siding. A central interior brick chimney rises from the front gable roof, which is clad in asphalt shingles and has overhanging eaves. The only opening on the façade is the main entry, which currently holds a single-leaf, plywood replacement door. This opening is mimicked on the rear or southeast elevation. The side elevations each have two evenly spaced 6/6 windows. To the south of the historic church, there is a historic cemetery and a circa 1965 church.

Inventory No. BA-1516

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Fork Christian Church (preferred); Bethel

other	Fork Building and Loan Association
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2. Location

street and number 6801 Sunshine Avenue not for publication

city, town Fork - vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Fork Christian Church
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street and number	6801 Sunshine Avenue	telephone	Not Available
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city, town	Fork	state	MD	zip code	21051
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 199 folio 95

city, town	Towson	tax map 54	tax parcel 264	tax ID number	11060045400
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
___district	___public	___agriculture	___landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___commerce/trade	___recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
___structure	___both	___defense	<u>X</u> religion	<u>1</u>	___sites
___site		___domestic	___social	___	___structures
___object		___education	___transportation	___	___objects
		___funerary	___work in progress	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total
		___government	___unknown		
		___health care	___vacant/not in use		
		___industry	___other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				1	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1516

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed circa 1890, the Fork Christian Church is located at 6801 Sunshine Avenue in Fork in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. Fronting north at the intersection of Sunshine Avenue and Stoney Batter Road, the one-story vernacular church is one bay wide and two bays deep. The modest wood frame church is set on a random rubble stone foundation with parging. The church has been reclad with metal siding that simulates board and batten siding. A central interior brick chimney rises from the front gable roof, which is clad in asphalt shingles and has overhanging eaves. The only opening on the façade is the main entry, which currently holds a single-leaf, plywood replacement door. This opening is mimicked on the rear or southeast elevation. The side elevations each have two evenly spaced 6/6 windows.

To the south of the historic church, there is a historic cemetery and a circa 1965 church. The cemetery has approximately 15 rows of markers fronting northeast. Most of the grave markers are upright granite headstones and there are also a few monuments with an obelisk appearance. The earliest grave in the cemetery dates to 1900. The cemetery is still in use by the Fork Christian Church congregation. A circa 1965 brick veneer church was constructed to the south of the original church. It has a front gable roof with asphalt shingles and flanking one-and-a-half-story side wings.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1516

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1890 ca.

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1890 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Constructed circa 1890, the Fork Christian Church is located at 6801 Sunshine Avenue in Fork in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. The Eleventh District is known for its rolling and fertile soil, as well as its abundant waterpower from Little Gunpowder Falls. In the mid-19th century, the town of Fork Meeting was a small rural community near Joppa Road and the Harford Turnpike. According to the 1850 Atlas of Baltimore County, the village had a post office, a meetinghouse, a tavern, and a number of dwellings. The town continued to remain small in nature and by 1877, there was also a hotel, a store, and the Fork School. In 1915, the map continues to show the schoolhouse, meetinghouse, store, and hotel. However, at this time, there appears to be a more densely populated residential area near the intersection of what is currently Harford and Fork Roads. The church first appears on this map as the Baptist Church.

In 1922, the Fork Christian Church acquired the Fork School (BA-1517) for use as a Sunday School. They retained this building until 1954 when it was converted to a residence. The congregation began in 1890 in the small, one-room church, which was originally known as Bethel. In the 1960s, the larger brick church on the property replaced the historic church. At that time, the original church ceased to function as a religious building. It was used for a time as a commercial building and housed the Fork Building and Loan Association. Currently, the one-room church is used by the church for offices and Sunday School.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1516

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>2.45 Acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>White Marsh</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Fork Christian Church is located at 6801 Sunshine Avenue in Fork in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. It has been associated with Tax Map 54, Parcel 264 since its construction circa 1890.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald, R. Weidlich and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 2, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

WHITE MARSH
QUADRANGLE
↑
N

BA-0365
12900 FORK ROAD
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0364
12800 FORK ROAD
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1517
6740 SUNSHINE AVENUE
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

3A-1516
3801 SUNSHINE AVENUE
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

3A-0247

A-0540





BIT 1516

6801 SUNSHINE AVENUE

FORK

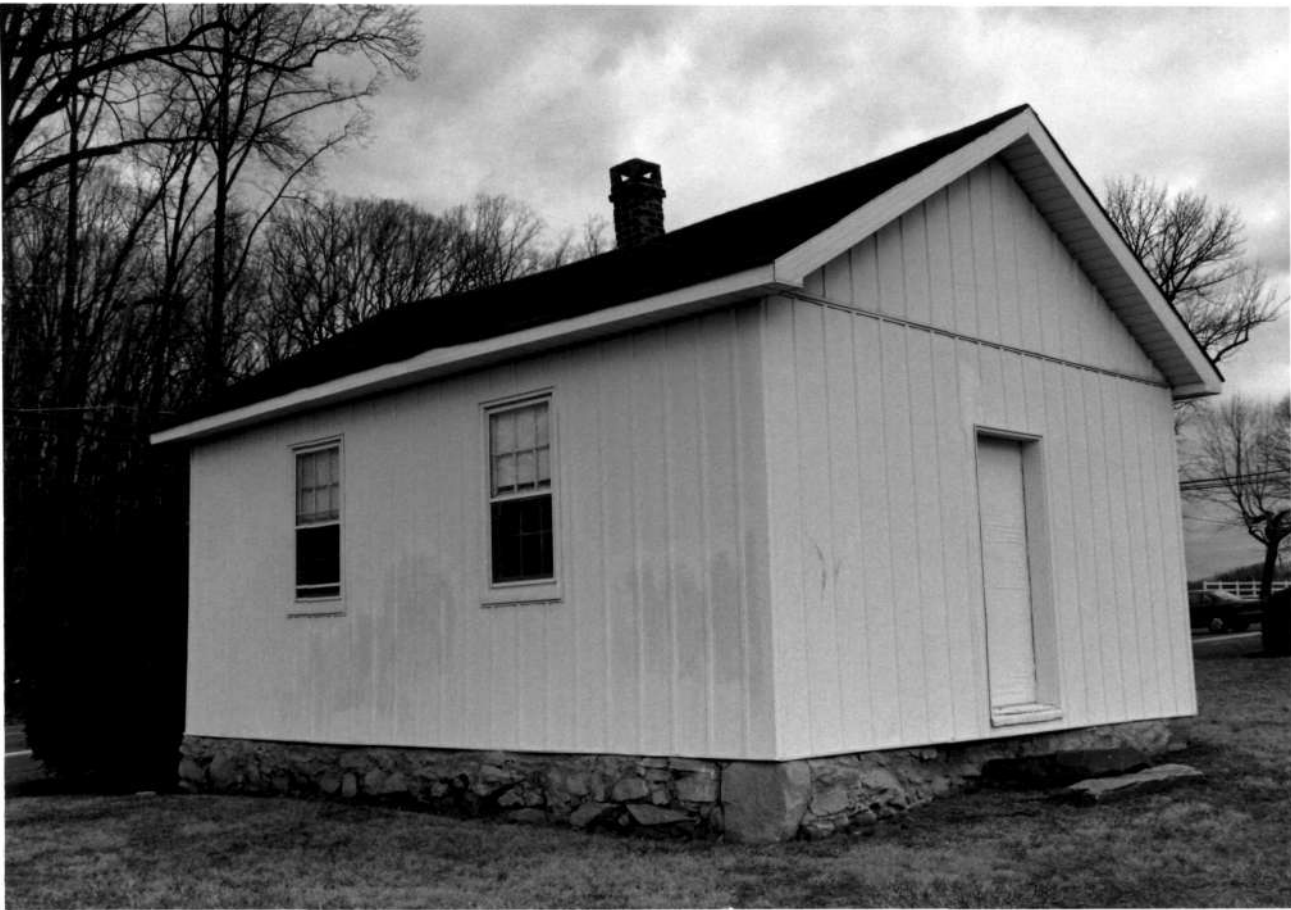
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

NE ELEVATION



BA 1516

6801 SUNSHINE AVENUE

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD-SHGO

W CORNER

2 of 4



BA-1516

6801 SUNSHINE AVENUE

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.

TRAVELIES

3/2001

MD-5100

E CORNER

3 of 4



BA-1516

6801 SUNSHINE AVENUE

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD-5H80

CEMETERY

4 of 4

BA- 1516

ORIGINAL FORK CHRISTIAN CHURCH - Before 1890 - In southeast angle between Stoney Batter Road and Sunshine Avenue. Small, frame, shingled structure, originally called "Bethel", which was the one-room starting place of Fork Christian Church in 1890. Now the office of Fork Building and Loan Association. Gable roof, stone foundation, good condition.